

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BUCHAREST 5783 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA
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QUOTE

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJECT: CHARLIE MINGUS CONCERT AT SALA PALATULUI

1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE
NUMBERS PLAYED BY THE CHARLES MINGUS GROUP HAVE TITLES
CRITICAL OF RECENT EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES IN THE U.S.
AT THEIR NOVEMBER 9 PUBLIC CONCERT SPONSORED BY ARIA
AND ATTENDED BY OVER 3500 PEOPLE, THE GROUP MENTIONED
THE TITLES AND PLAYED SOME OF THESE NUMBERS WHICH
(WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE MENTIONED BELOW) DO NOT
INCLUDE LYRICS. ONE OF THESE NUMBERS WAS PLAYED AT
THE NOVEMBER 10 CONCERT IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY; HOW-
EVER, IT WAS NOT IDENTIFIED BY TITLE NOR WERE ANY
LYRICS SUNG TO IT.

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2. ONE OF THE NUMBERS IN THE NOVEMBER 9 CONCERT

WAS INTRODUCED BY MINGUS BY ITS TITLE, "REMEMBER
ROCKEFELLER AT ATTICA". ANOTHER NUMBER WAS TITLED
SOMETH
NG LIKE "CELLBLOCK F--NAZI USA". A THIRD SONG
ENDED WITH THE REFRAIN, "EISENHOWER* JOHNSON* NIXON*
KISSINGER* RIDICULOUS* GOD HELP PRESIDENT FORD"; ALSO
IN THE SAME SONG--THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY LYRICS--THE
DRUMMER SANG OUT "TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT, NIXON KNEW
ALL ABOUT WATERGATE". ONLY REFERENCE TO TITLES WAS MADE
AS MINGUS ANNOUNCED EACH SONG TITLE; NO PROGRAMS WERE
DISTRIBUTED AND IT APPEARED THAT FEW IN AUDIENCE UNDER-
STOOD OR SHOWED INTEREST IN THE TITLES OR CONNOTATIONS,
ALTHOUGH ONE ROMANIAN HAS TOLD US SHE UNDERSTOOD THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THEM AND FOUND THEM IN BAD TASTE.

3. MINGUS' MANAGER, SAM ALSTON, WAS INFORMED ON
MORNING OF NOVEMBER 10 THAT WE EXPECTED AGREED-UPON
PROGRAMS (I.E., WITHOUT NUMBERS PLAYED AT THE NOVEMBER
9 CONCERT) WOULD BE PERFORMED THAT NIGHT AT LIBRARY.
AFTER A PROTRACTED DISCUSSION WITH MINGUS (WHO BEHAVED
RATHER IRASCIBLY), HE AGREED NOT TO MENTION ANY OF
THESE TITLES IN HIS AMERICAN LIBRARY CONCERT AND,
AS REPORTED ABOVE, DID NOT.

4. NONE OF THE TITLES CITED ABOVE WERE ON THE
LIST SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT, EVIDENTLY FROM GEORGE
WEIN'S OFFICE. EMBASSIES WHICH HAVE UP-COMING PROGRAMS
WITH MINGUS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL EMBAR-
RASSMENT OF THE TITLES OF SOME OF THE NUMBERS HE
PLAYS.

5. MINGUS GROUP DEPARTED ROMANIA LAST NIGHT
AFTER VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM AT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
WHICH WAS HIGHLY PRAISED BY MUSICIANS, COMPOSERS,
MUSICOLOGISTS, JAZZ BUFFS AND THE GENERAL AUDIENCE.
VIETS UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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